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Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“Oedipus Rex” Essay Choices

Choice 1--Directions: You will write a 5 paragraph essay about Oedipus as a Tragic Hero, one of the Themes—Truth or Prophecy, or the Motif—eyes. The essay will contain an Introduction, 3 body paragraphs (with clear topic sentences and transitions), and a Conclusion. Each paragraph must be 5 sentences. See the rubric for more details.

Your essay must be typed and the MLA format must be used. (This is good practice for the Grad. Project-- Times New Roma, 12 font, double-spaced, proper heading and spacing throughout.)

Choice 2—Directions: You will answer 3 out of 4 of the following questions completely and in complete sentences. Each question must be answered in at least 5-7 sentences. Your questions must be clearly labeled as 1., 2.,3. And 4. Your questions must be typed and the MLA format must be used (I’m not being mean…you’ll thank me when you are completing your Grad. Project). DO NOT REWRITE THE QUESTION…..Your 1st sentence should reflect what the question is asking. If you rewrite the question, IT WILL NOT COUNT AS 1 OF YOUR 5-7 sentences! See the rubric for more details.

1. A Tragic hero is basically a good and admirable person who, because of a fault or flaw in character, takes a major downfall. Oedipus is the tragic hero. Explain how his flaw brings about his downfall.
2. What role does the “supernatural” play in *Oedipus*? What is the prophecy that is told to King Laius and Jocasta? How do they react to the prophecy? What is the prophecy that is told to Oedipus? How does he react to the prophecy?
3. Sight/seeing is often mentioned and is an important part in the play. What role does Teiresais play? Why is his blindness ironic? What does Oedipus’ blinding himself in the end have to do with his seeing the truth?
4. Shakespeare, living before the age of psychology, understood the hopes and dreams, fears and anxieties, joys and sorrows of the human mind. What in the play speaks directly to you, a student of the 21st century? What part/s of the play were you able to identify with, feel compassion for, etc…